

PINELLAS COUNTY CANCER PROFILE

2015

FAST FACTS

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Cancer's ranking among causes of death in Florida during 2013, though the overall death rate due to cancer decreased.¹

22.2

Percent of total deaths due to cancer in Pinellas County during 2013.¹

193.5

Cancer death rate per 100,000 black residents in Pinellas, compared to 160.7 per 100,000 white residents, in 2013.³

51.6

Percentage of Pinellas women aged 40-74 years who received a mammogram during 2013.²

57.1

Percentage of Pinellas adults aged 50 and older who have received a colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy in the past five years, as of 2013.²

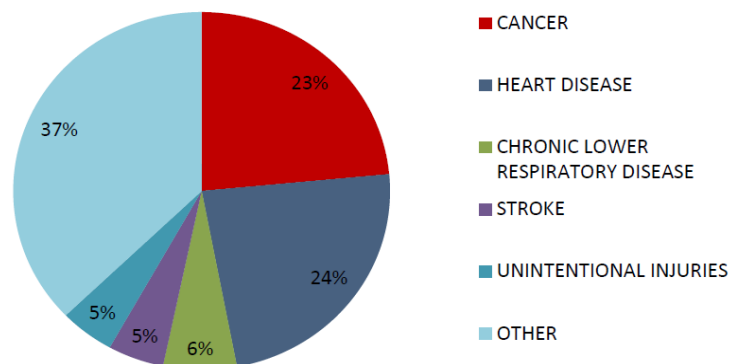
CANCER PREVENTION & RISK 101

Anything that increases your chance of developing cancer is called a **cancer risk factor**; anything that decreases your chance of developing cancer is called a **cancer protective factor**.

Some **risk factors** for cancer can be avoided, but many cannot. For example, both smoking and inheriting certain genes are risk factors for some types of cancer, but only smoking can be avoided.⁴

Some **protective factors** that we can control include: maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, eating a balanced diet, and avoiding secondhand smoke and other pollution.

Major Causes of Death in Florida, 2013

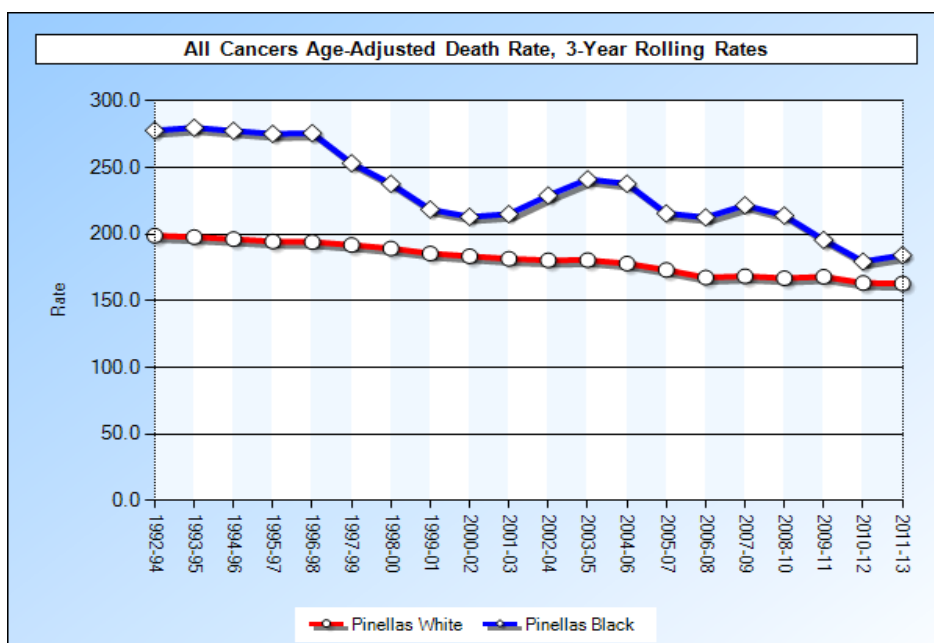


Why is cancer a public health concern?

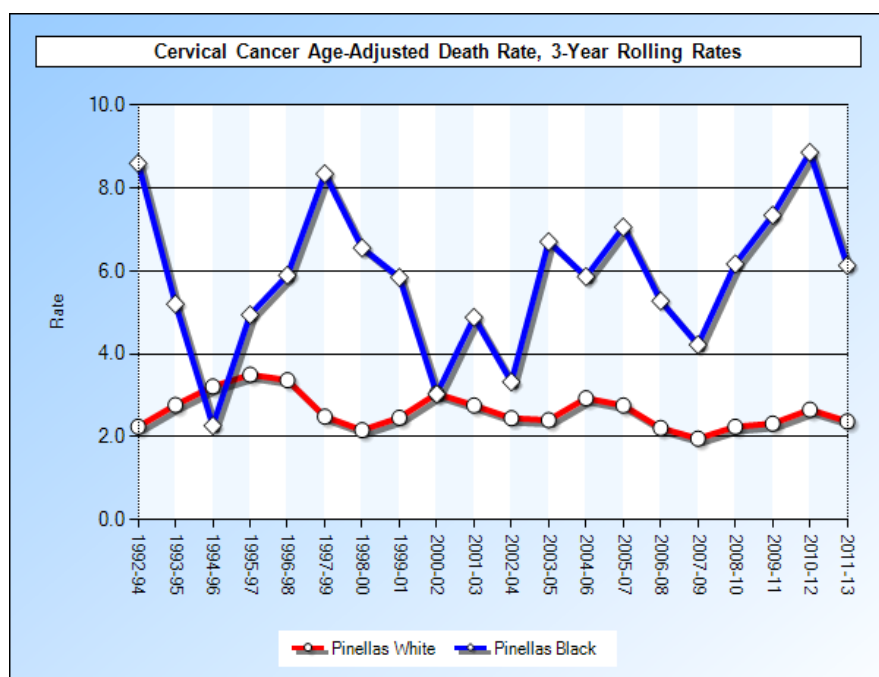
Public health focuses on the impact of cancer on the entire population. A public health approach to cancer is largely preventive; this might include promoting access to healthcare, safe places to exercise, routine health screenings, a nutritious diet, and community education. The public health approach is significantly different from that of clinical professionals, who focus primarily on treating individuals *after* they become sick or injured.⁵

CANCER DISPARITIES

Although cancer rates are decreasing overall, the disparity in cancer death between black and white patients in Pinellas County is striking. Complex and interrelated factors contribute to this type of health disparity. These include risk factors that are experienced disproportionately by the black community, such as lack of health care coverage, low socioeconomic status, and unequal access to improvements in cancer treatment.⁶



CASE STUDY: HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS



As in most cancers, significant disparities exist in Pinellas County deaths from the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which can cause cervical cancer in women and oropharynx cancer and others in males. However, there is now a reliable method to reduce infection: the HPV vaccine.

The vaccine provides close to 100% protection against pre-cancers, and is most effective when given prior to HPV exposure.

The CDC recommends the vaccine for all preteens. Florida currently has the lowest rate for vaccination against HPV in the nation.⁷

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¹ 2013 Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report. <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2013/vscomp.pdf>. Accessed 5/12/2015.

² 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey. http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/survey-data/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system/reports/_documents/2013county/_documents/Pinellas.pdf. Accessed 5/12/2015.

³ Florida CHARTS. www.floridacharts.com. Accessed 5/12/2015.

⁴ NCI Cancer Prevention Overview. <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/prevention/overview/patient/page3>. Accessed 5/12/2015.

⁵ CDC Cancer Prevention and Control. http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivorship/what_cdc_is_doing/action_plan.htm. Accessed 5/12/2015.

⁶ Cancer Health Disparities Fact Sheet. <http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci/organization/crchd/cancer-health-disparities-fact-sheet>. Accessed 5/11/2015.

⁷ CDC Vaccines and Immunizations. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hpv/vac-faqs.htm>. Accessed 5/12/2015.

